

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 NEA-10

/142 W

----- 012175

O R 161130Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4817

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

USNATO IMMEDIATE 3317

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EXEF, FR, FT, OCLR

SUBJECT: PRESS HANDLING OF "LA SALLE " INCIDENT

REF: CNO WASHINGTON P 010147Z NOV. 73

1. AFP NOVEMBER 16 CARRIES STORY BEGINNING "FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN DJIBOUTI, ACCORDING TO A LOS ANGELES TIMES DESPATCH FROM ASSAB, ETHIOPIA, PREVENTED AN AMERICAN DESTROYER, DURING THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, FROM LEAVING PORT AND THUS AVOIDED A POSSIBLE NAVAL INCIDENT BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN SHIPS IN THE RED SEA." STORY CONCLUDES THAT "LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT BELIEVES IT WAS THIS INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN US NAVAL COMMAND DECIDING TO SEND AIRCRAFT CARRIER HANCOCK, ESCORTED BY FIVE DESTROYERS, INTO INDIAN OCEAN DURING ME WAR."

THE US JOURNALIST ADDED THAT "THIS AFFAIR COULD EXPLAIN IN PART THE TENSION WHICH HAS MARKED FRANCO-AMERICAN

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RELATIONS SINCE ME CRISIS."

2. SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBASSY AND DAO HAD THOROUGH, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF INCIDENT WITH, RESPECTIVELY, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FRENCH NAVY. CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS WAS TOTAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO INCIDENT BETWEEN US NAVY AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN DJIBOUTI, THAT US NAVY WAS GRATEFUL FOR USE OF DJIBOUTI FACILITIES AND FOR CORDIALITY SHOWN US NAVY DURING DJIBOUTI SHIP VISITS.

3. ON BASIS REFTEL, IF QUERIED ABOUT AFP STORY, EMBASSY WILL REPLY "THIS STORY IS NOT TRUE; THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENTS OF ANY US NAVAL VESSEL IN THE ME". DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO TAKE SIMILAR LINE. IF NOT, PLEASE ADVISE. WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FRENCH NAVAL AUTHORITIES NOVEMBER 16 ON AFP STORY. THEY WILL TAKE SIMILAR LINE IF QUERIED BY PRESS.IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, U S S HANCOCK, DESTROYERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PARIS29545  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** CNO WASHINGTON P 010147Z NOV. 73  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS HANDLING OF "LA SALLE " INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OCLR, FR, FT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005